

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03402 081222Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 /101 W

----- 007917

R 081033Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2661

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUNDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1051

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3402

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, AO, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA

1. SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS STATEMENT
SAYS SOUTH AFRICA ACTED ONLY TO PROTECT WATER PUMPING
STATION AT CALUEQUE IN ABSENCE PORTUGUESE ACTION.
END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED SEPT.6 THAT SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS BRAND FOURIE HAD PROVIDED DESCRIPTION OF SOUTH
AFRICAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA BORDER AREA, RESPONDING TO A
STATEMENT BY PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN LISBON.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03402 081222Z

PORTUGUESE NOTED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD INFORMED PORTUGAL ON

AUG 12 THAT IT HAD PLACED A 30-MAN PATROL AT WATER PUMPING STATION AT CALUEQUE TO PROTECT WORKERS WHO WERE THERE UNDER TERMS OF AN ACCORD BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES QUARANTEERING WATER SUPPLIES.

3. COMMENTING ON THE PORTUGUESE STATEMENT, FOURIE SAID: " IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHENIT WAS REALISED THAT BOTH THE WORKS AND WORKERS IN THE CALUEGQUE-RUACANA AREA URGENTLY NEEDED PROTECTION, THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES WERE ASKED TO TAKE URGENT STEPS IN THIS REGARD.

" IN THE ABSENCE OF REACTION AND THE INCREASING DANGER STEPS WERE TAKEN TO GIVE THE NECESSARY PROTECTION, AND THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES WERE AT THE SAME TIME ONCE AGAIN ASKED TO TAKE STEPS SO THAT THE NEED FOR PROTECTION BY SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BECOME UNNECESSARY.

" IN THE NOTE WHICH WAS RECEIVED MENTION WAS ALSO MADE, INTER ALIA, OF ALLEGATION IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE INFILTRATION BY MERCENARIES AND OTHERS FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA."

4. SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN LISBON WAS REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED ON SEPT .4 TO REPLY TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AS FOLLOWS: " PLEASE ADVISE PORTUGUESE MINISTRY THAT AS PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO THEM, AND UNDERSTOOD BY THEM, WE TOOK MEASURES IN QUESTION FOR SOLE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING WORKS AND WORKERS AT CALUEQUE. AT THAT TIME WE ALSO REQUESTED PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT BOTH SUCH WORKS AND WORKERS.

" WE APPRECIATE AND WELCOME THEIR DECISION TO PROVIDE SUCH PROTECTION AND SHALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SUSPEND MEASURES TAKEN BY US AND IN COOPERATION WITH PORTUGUESE COMMANDER WITHDRAW THE PERSONNEL CONCERNED.

" SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY IS ONE OF NON-INTERFERENCE AND WE ALLOW NO MERCENARIES OR OTHER TROOPS TO OPERATE FROM OUR TERRITORY OR TERRITORY UNDER OUR CONTROL.

" THE GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE SURPRISED AT THE SUGGESTION THAT MERCENARIES AND OTHERS MIGHT HAVE PENETRATED SOUTHERN ANGOLA FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA. THE GOVERNMENT REJECTS THIS POSSIBILITY AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE 'RELIABLE REPORTS' COULD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRETOR 03402 081222Z

BE MADE AVAILABLE TO IT."

5. FOURIE SAID THAT COPIES OF SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE HAD BEEN SENT TO SECRETARY-GENERAL UNITED NATIONS SINCE PORTUGUESE HAD EARLIER SENT COPY OF THEIR STATEMENT TO HIM ALSO.
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